

HAWAII EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL

April 29, 2009

Via VCC at the following locations:

<u>O'ahu</u>	AAFES Building 5 th Floor Conference Room 919 Ala Moana Blvd.
<u>Kaua'i</u>	<u>Kauai District Health Office Conference Room 3040 Umi St.</u>
<u>West Hawaii</u>	Kona Health Center VCC Room 79-1015 Haukapila St.

MINUTES

Present: Andrade, Bishop Freed, Calderon, Dela Vega, Fahey, Fuddy, Gamble, Gentry, Johnson, Kaahunui, Kawakami, Lau, Merrill, Lim (for J.P. Schmidt), Sheehey, Snyder, Sutherland, Uehara

Absent: Anana, Ching, Michels (replacement for Mary Brogan), Morita, Parlin, Tonda

Ex-Officio Present: Cabral, Heu, Mansfield, Schember-Lang, Wilcox

Absent: Chun-Oakland, J. Johnson

Staff: Baron, Brown

Guests: Chris Jackson, Gwen Palmer, Barbara Yamashita

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION/FOLLOW-UP
I. Call to Order	<p>Vice-Chair Fahey called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Parlin was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.</p> <p>A. Review Agenda. Agenda reviewed by Council. It was decided to follow the agenda as written and defer Item 2c until Fuddy arrives to provide the update (Note: Minutes are still ordered to follow the agenda.).</p> <p>B. Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2009 Motion by Snyder to approve the minutes from the 1/28/09 meeting; second by Sheehey.</p>	<p>Minutes of 1/28/09 unanimously approved.</p>

II. Program Update

A. Early Intervention Section Budget FY 2009

Brown provided the following information. The FY 2009 budget, including state and federal Part C funds remains at \$19,374,644. It is expected that an additional \$1,000,000 of Special Funds will be available to EIS to support program costs. The expected deficit of approximately \$1,000,000 is expected to be covered by internal adjustments such as payroll savings, etc.

B. Early Intervention Section Budget FY 2010

Brown provided the following information. The current FY 2010 budget remains at \$19,374,644. However, this budget is dependent on the final legislative decisions. The House recommended a decrease of approximately \$1,000,000 for direct service costs as well as elimination of 28 positions which would also result in a further decreased budget. The Senate recommended no changes to the EIS budget. EIS expects to hear the results of the Conference Committee sometime in May. Part C federal funds will be increased by \$17,641 for FY 2010. Based on current projections, if EIS receives \$1,000,000 in Special Funds, the expected deficit would be approximately \$2,000,000. EIS has been awarded Stimulus Funds of \$2,139,843 that are expected to be available as of 7/1/09.

C. Status on the disposition of the Healthy Start Program

- Per Fuddy, there was no new news on the future funding of the Healthy Start program. Similar to EIS, FHSD will be informed following the Conference Committee Report.
- Currently the budget for Healthy Start includes \$1.4 million from TANF funds. FHSD has received a \$500,000 Federal grant to support HS, but this is not for direct services. The grant project addresses systems and infrastructure building to enhance home visitation programs, and also includes a large evaluation component.
- The budget for Healthy Start services was originally \$17 million, which was reduced to \$14 million, further reduced to \$11 million and is now at \$1.4 million for direct services.
- This is also an additional \$3.2 million from TANF funds for the Enhanced Healthy Start program.
- Fuddy said that HI is moving toward a system that includes only developmentally delayed children or those with a diagnosed physical or mental condition as the eligible Part C children, due to the available funds. The environmentally at-risk population will continued to be served, to the extent possible, but as a part of Child Find. They will, in addition to receiving home visiting services, be regularly screened for developmental delays. If delays are suspected, they will be referred to H-KISS for referral to an EIS program for evaluation.

<p>III. HEICC Business</p>	<p>A. Discuss Council’s position on proposed changes to the Hawaii Early Intervention State Plan</p> <p><u>Eligibility</u></p> <p>A public hearing is scheduled for Monday May 4th from 10-12 at the AAFES building 5th floor conference room. Issues to be presented at the public hearing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposed changes to 4 sections the State Plan (i.e., eligibility, evaluation and assessment; financial matters; and HEICC) • opt out policy • application for funding under Part C <p>Brown noted that hearing will not be an opportunity for discussion but rather for verbal and written testimony to be submitted regarding the proposed changes.</p> <p>Because the focus of this section of the HEICC meeting is on changes in the State Plan, the following two handouts were provided to council members prior to the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary Comparison Chart for Eligibility (current, proposed, minimal federal requirements and Council priorities) 2. Proposed and Current Text – for all 4 areas <p>Comments from members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentry asked how the change in eligibility language will expand or reduce services and the number served. Brown and Fahey commented that with reduced funding for Healthy Start, the number of children has been reduced. • Snyder said that Healthy Start, if it focuses on Child Find, will mainly include low-income families and will not be identifying or serving the number of children it was before. Pediatricians, Public Health Nurses, and others will also have to continue to provide developmental screening to ensure referral to H-KISS if there is a concern about the child’s development. • Calderon said that there will be a decrease in the number of children with developmental concerns screened because of the decrease in funding. • Brown reported that as of the last Child Count on 12/1/08, Healthy Start served 1466 children with IFSPs who were categorized as environmentally at risk. An additional 97 children with developmental delays and 15 children who were biologically at risk were care-coordinated by Healthy Start. It is expected that these 97 children with developmental delays will require care-coordination services from EIS if Part C care coordination by Healthy Start is eliminated. • Gamble mentioned that if a child is at-risk for Substantial Developmental Delay 	
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	<p>(formerly Biologically At-Risk) and this group is served, then perhaps the numbers won't be substantially less.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the listing of categories under the proposed At Risk of Substantial Developmental Delay does not include anything related to child abuse and neglect according to Brown. Calderon said that this language is focused on child issues, not on environmental issues or the parent's ability to parent. Sutherland and Merrill said the list seems to address several important areas which include those Gamble is concerned with. Snyder said that while the list could be expanded, it will depend on available funds. • Gamble asked who drafted the language for "At-Risk for Substantial Developmental Delay." Brown noted that this language is in the current Part C regulations. Fuddy said that is was the decision of the Department and the Deputy Attorney General. Fahey said that the changes in language were motivated by funding issues and was not a paradigm shift in Early Intervention service delivery. • Sheehey motioned that the Council accept the proposed language in column two including providing for services to the Environmentally at-risk population under the At Risk of Substantial Developmental Delay category; seconded by Kaahanui. All those in favor: 15 Opposed: 1 Abstained: 2 • Snyder motioned to allow the Executive Committee to write testimony on behalf of the greater Council regarding support for this proposed language; seconded by Andrade. All those in favor: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 <p><u>Financial Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown explained that the highlighted language in this section were proposed changes from the current language. The major difference is allowing the Department to implement a sliding fee scale which will require parents to contribute monetarily toward their early intervention services based on their income level. If this is approved and if needed, procedures would need to be developed before it could be implemented. • Johnson said that we don't want to require parents to pay at all but to save services we need to create additional funding streams and this is one possibility. Brown said that Hawaii is one of a few states that does not have a system of payments that requires some level of parent payment. • Fuddy said that it's good to have the language in the State Plan which is why it's being proposed but it cannot be implemented until it's in the law. • Gamble said regarding third party insurance payment, that Tri-Care will not pay for early intervention services and since it's a Federal program, the State cannot force it to do so. Fuddy mentioned thought this gives the State some leverage to advocate 	<p>Motion passed.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	<p>nationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gentry asked for an example of what it might cost an average family to pay according to the sliding scale. Fuddy said that this has been presented before and can get a copy of this to him. Gentry also said that even with insurance coverage, parents will still have to pay something via a cap. He feels it's not fair to charge families at all. Sutherland concurred. Fuddy reiterated that most other states have already moved to this system of payments and that with the decreases in Healthy Start numbers, fewer dollars will also be coming into the Early Intervention Special Fund. She said we are also not immune to further cuts in funding. Dela Vega and Lau said they would rather pay something than get no services at all. Gamble asked if requiring parents to participate in the payment for services would deter them from entering services. Kaahanui responded said that it might but coupled with the third-party insurance payment option, it might be better received. Fuddy made it clear that if families were billing insurance and paying a co-pay, they would not be required to pay under the sliding fee scale. Snyder motioned to accept the language with the caveat that 3rd party insurance billing be pursued and the sliding scale only be implemented with insurance billing so that families can have the option of billing their insurance instead of paying out of pocket; seconded by Kaahanui. <p>All those in favor: 14 Opposed: 3 Abstained: 1</p> <p><u>HEICC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Brown, the changes to the HEICC composition language were made to be consistent with IDEA. She stated that HEICC currently includes a representative from the Governor, but that this was inadvertently left out of the proposal. Snyder motioned to accept the proposed language for the composition of the HEICC; seconded by Kawakami. <p>All those in favor: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0</p> <p><u>Evaluation and Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Brown, there were no substantive changes made to this category only the movement and reorganization of text. Fuddy motioned to accept the proposed language for the composition of the Evaluation and Assessment; seconded by Johnson. <p>All those in favor: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0</p>	<p>Brown to email information to Council members.</p> <p>Motion passed.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	<p><u>Opt Out Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brown explained that the State’s proposed opt out policy was developed in partnership with Hawaii’s Part C Project Officer and Kala Suprenant from OSEP’s office of General Council in June 2008. It was placed on the EIS website for comments, and then implemented as required. EIS was informed in OSEP’s 7/3/08 letter to DOH that the Opt Out Policy must be presented as part of a public hearing. <p><u>Grant Application</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brown explained that the Grant Application does not have to be part of the public hearing process; it only needs to be on the EIS website and available for comments. However, because we needed to do a public hearing, the Grant Application was included. Fuddy motioned to accept the Opt Out policy and the IDEA Grant Application, as written; seconded by Kaahanui. All those in favor: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 	Motion passed unanimously.
IV. Announcements	<p>A. Recruitment of new Council Members for upcoming vacancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A list of the HEICC members with terms expiring and other required changes was passed out. Other required changes included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deborah Sutherland – term not expiring but child is no longer under 12 and therefore cannot continue as a HEICC member. Sutherland will talk to Imua about a replacement for her. Kawakami motioned that non-state members still eligible to continue on the Council whose terms were ended should be re-appointed (i.e., Gentry, Lau, Sheehey); seconded by Snyder. There was discussion as to who could not continue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lucille Calderon – with the elimination of environmentally at risk children from the Part C eligibility, her Healthy Start program representation on the Council as a provider of Part C eligible children would no longer be appropriate. Amanda Kaahanui – as an EIS employee, her representation on the Council as a family member would no longer be appropriate. Following discussion, the vote was taken. <p>All those in favor: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0</p>	Motion passed unanimously.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other State agency members whose terms were ending 6/30/09 will check with their supervisors to see if they are still the most appropriate representative from their agency. • All members were asked to submit names of replacements for Sutherland, Kaahanui and Calderon. 	State agency members to notify Brown and Baron of their status ASAP.
V. Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. The next quarterly HEICC meeting will be Wednesday, July 29, 2009 at a location TBA.	